

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1 A device for recording an image including a geographical location, related descriptive
2 text and/or environmental conditions in a medium, comprising:

- 3 a) means for forming an electronic image of an object of interest in digital form;
4 b) means for determining a geographical location of the image in digital form;
5 c) means for storing the digital image and the geographical location thereof in a
6 memory;
7 d) means for accessing descriptive text of a plurality of objects of interest;
8 e) means for selecting and associating the descriptive text with the image;
9 f) means for recording the image, related geographical location and descriptive text
10 in the medium; and
11 g) means for communicating the recorded image with or without related
12 geographical location and descriptive text to a network.

1 2. The device of Claim 1 wherein the means for forming an electronic image further
2 comprises:

- 3 h) data processing means for receiving and converting optical information of the
4 object of interest into compressed digital form for storage in the memory.

1 3 The device of Claim 1 wherein means for determining the geographical location of the
2 image further comprises:

3 i) a GPS interface and processing logic unit linked to at least one space satellite for
4 converting satellite signals into geographical coordinates in digital form for storage in the
5 memory and indicative of the image geographical location.

1 4. The device of Claim 1 wherein the means for accessing descriptive texts of a plurality of
2 objects of interest further comprises:

3 j) an interface to a database responsive to a user for selecting the stored descriptive
4 text related to the object of interest recorded in the digital image.

1 5. The device of Claim 1 wherein the means for recording the image, geographical location
2 and descriptive text further comprises:

3 k) means for accessing the memory and correlating the digital image with the
4 geographic location;

5 l) means for correlating the descriptive text with the object of interest and recording
6 in a medium.

1 6. The device of Claim 1 further comprising:

2 m) environmental sensing means for collecting and storing environmental conditions
3 related to the image for recording in the medium.

1 7. The device of Claim 1 further comprising:

2 n) a server in the network for storing descriptive text of objects of interest

1 8. The device of Claim 7 further comprising:

2 o) wireless means for connecting and providing to the network the geographic
3 location and conditions of the object of interest stored in the memory for processing and
4 recording in a medium by the network.

1 9. The device of Claim 7 further comprising

2 p) a terminal coupled to the network and responsive to a user to obtain, display and
3 record the geographical location and descriptive text in the medium.

5 10. The device of Claim 1 wherein said means of communicating includes wireless
6 communication.

1 11. The device of Claim 1 further comprising:

2 q) a terminal coupled to the network and responsive to a user input to obtain and
3 display and record the stored image of the object of interest with or without geographical
4 location and descriptive text in the medium.

1 12. The device of Claim 11 further comprising:

2 r) means in the terminal for editing the image to include the related geographical
3 location and descriptive text.

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1 13. In a system including an image-collecting device coupled to a remote data processing
2 system and a workstation via a network, a method for recording an image including a
3 geographical location, and/or environmental conditions in a medium, comprising the steps of
4 a) forming an electronic image of an object of interest in digital form in the image
5 collecting device;
6 b) determining a geographical location of the image in digital form;
7 c) capturing and storing the digital image and the geographical location thereof in a
8 memory;
9 d) storing descriptive text of a plurality of objects of interest in a remote processing
10 system or workstation;
11 e) selecting and associating the descriptive text with the image; and
12 f) Recording the image and descriptive text in the medium.

1 14. The method of Claim 13 wherein the means for forming an electronic image further
2 comprises the step of:

3 g) receiving and converting optical information of the object of interest into
4 compressed digital form.

1 15. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

2 h) converting satellite signals into geographical coordinates in digital form indicative
3 of the image geographical location.

1 16. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of

2 i) selecting the stored descriptive text related to the object of interest recorded in
3 the digital image.

1 17. The method of Claim 13 wherein the step of determining geographical location includes
2 determining latitude and longitude.

1 18. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

2 j) accessing the remote processing system or workstation and correlating and
3 recording the digital image with the geographical location, and descriptive text associated with
4 the object of interest in a medium.

1 19. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

2 k) collecting and storing environmental conditions related to the image for recording
3 in the medium.

1 20. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of:

2 l) connecting and providing to a network the image, geographical location, and
3 environmental conditions of the object of interest stored in the image-collecting device. for
4 processing and recording in a medium by the network.

1 21. The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of

2 m) storing thumbnail images related to objects of interest in the remote data
3 processing system according to location coordinates.

14 f) program instruction in the medium recording the image and descriptive text in the
15 medium.

1 25. The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising

2 g) program instructions for converting satellite signals into geographical coordinates
3 in digital form indicative of the image geographical location for storage in an image-collecting
4 device.

1 26. The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising:

2 h) program instruction in the medium accessing the remote processing system or
3 workstation and correlating and recording the digital image with the geographical location,
4 descriptive text of the object of interest in a medium.

1 27. The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising:

2 i) program instruction in the medium collecting and storing environmental
3 conditions related to the image for recording in the medium

1 28. The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising

2 j) program instruction in the medium for accessing thumbnail images of objects of
3 interest in the remote data processing system according to location coordinates.

1 29. The program medium of Claim 24 further comprising:

2 k) program instruction in the medium obtaining and inserting a thumbnail of an
3 object of interest according to location coordinates and storing in a medium.

1 30. A system for incorporating images in an electronic message, comprising:

- 2 a) a terminal for generating electronic messages;
3 b) means for obtaining location coordinates;
4 c) means for accessing images stored in a network according to location coordinates;
5 d) means for providing obtained location coordinates to the network and obtaining
6 images from the network according to the provided location coordinates; and
7 e) means for incorporating in an electronic message at least one of the images
8 obtained from the network.

1 31. The system of Claim 30 wherein location coordinates provided to the network are the
2 location coordinates of the terminal creating the message.

1 32. The system of Claim 30 wherein the location coordinates are established at the
2 completion of the creation of the electronic message.

1 33. The system of Claim 30 wherein the location coordinates are established at the start of
2 the creation of the electronic message.

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1 34. The system of Claim 30 wherein the terminal is a laptop or personal digital assistant or
2 other computer device.

1 35. The system of Claim 30 wherein the terminal is linked to the network by a wired or
2 wireless connection.

1 36. A method, comprising the steps of:

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3 a) generating electronic messages at a location;
4 b) obtaining location coordinates;
5 c) accessing images stored in a network according to the location coordinates;
6 d) providing obtained location coordinates to the network and obtaining images from
7 the network according to the provided location coordinates; and
8 e) incorporating in an electronic message at least one of the images obtained from
9 the network.

1 37. The method of Claim 36 wherein the obtained images are provided as part of advertizing.

2 38. The method of Claim 36 further comprising the step of:

- 3 d) offering the images in a prioritized manner based on the amount of payment
4 associated with each image.

1 39. The method of Claim 36 further comprising the step of:

- 2 e) providing the sender of an electronic message an incentive to include an
3 advertising image in the message.

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